



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
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May 30, 2001

Guy M. Hicks
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OFFICE OF

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

VIA HAND DELIVERY

David Waddell, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry into Long Distance
(InterLATA Service) in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996*

Docket No. ~~CT-EC-974~~
97-00309

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed are the original and thirteen copies of BellSouth's Preliminary Notice of Filing and Request for Scheduling Conference, along with a filing fee of \$25.00. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to parties who participated in BellSouth's earlier 271 filing, Docket No. 97-00309.

Very truly yours,

Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch
Enclosure

CT*0450003357-6
Dated 5/30/01
5/30/01

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry Into Long Distance
(InterLATA Service) in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996*

Docket No. ~~97-00474~~
97.00309

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S
PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF FILING
AND REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") wishes to notify the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("the Authority") of its intent to file a section 271 application with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in order to gain authority to enter the interLATA long distance market in Tennessee. It is anticipated that BellSouth will file its formal Section 271 notice with the Authority in late July, 2001. BellSouth respectfully requests that the Authority appoint a Hearing Officer and convene a scheduling conference as expeditiously as possible and prior to the filing of BellSouth's formal Section 271 notice.

BellSouth fully expects that the Authority will take its consultative responsibilities under the Act seriously and address the issues before it with diligence and care. BellSouth requests that the Hearing Officer and Authority set the 271 hearings during the week of November 5, 2001, which will allow sufficient time for the Authority to perform its consultative role. BellSouth requests that during the scheduling conference the parties be provided the opportunity to discuss

filing requirements and other procedural matters in order to allow for the efficient and orderly consideration of competitive checklist items not already being addressed in other Authority proceedings.¹ BellSouth recognizes its commitment to comply with the procedural requirements set forth in the April 18, 1997 Report and Recommendation of the Hearing Officer.² However, based on (1) the work done by the Authority in a number of proceedings over the past five years to incent competition in Tennessee, (2) the fact that the FCC has clarified its requirements in order to approve an application for Section 271 relief, and (3) the work BellSouth and the CLECs have done to bring competitive choice and service offerings to Tennesseans, the Authority will be in a much better position to address BellSouth's 271 case than it was in 1997. As a result, BellSouth believes the procedural requirements set forth in the Hearing Officer's 1997 Report and Recommendation should be modified and streamlined in some respects. With guidance from the Authority, it is BellSouth's intent to provide the Authority with all the supporting evidence it needs to perform its consultative role under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act").

¹ In its Order Accepting BellSouth's Notice of Voluntary Dismissal Without Prejudice and Withdrawal of Advance Notice of Section 271 Filing, the Authority ordered that Docket No. 99-00309 remain open for the original purposes set forth in the Authority's Order of March 27, 1997. Those purposes were to adopt a formal inquiry and appropriate procedure to provide the Authority with the information necessary for it to make an informed judgment with respect to fulfilling its duties pursuant to Section 271 and to provide all interested parties with an opportunity to be heard with respect to the significant issues involved.

² BellSouth also notes, however, that, in apparent anticipation of changes in the regulatory landscape, the Hearing Officer stated that the "Authority reserves the right to revisit the procedural framework, at its discretion, if it becomes appropriate to do so." See Initial Order Accepting BellSouth's Telecommunications, Inc.'s Notice of Voluntary Dismissal and Withdrawal at Page 16, Fn. 26.

As a result of diligent efforts by the Authority to incent the development of competition in Tennessee's local markets since passage of the Act, the Authority is well-positioned to review BellSouth's compliance with Section 271 requirements. Indeed, as a result of such efforts, BellSouth's local markets in Tennessee have been irreversibly opened to competition. Numerous carriers are currently providing facilities-based and resold service to business and residential customers in Tennessee. CLECs serve approximately 30% of the business market in BellSouth's area in Tennessee. CLECs serve more than 300,000 local access lines in BellSouth's area. This local market share is comparable to or exceeds CLEC market share in states where other Regional Bell Operating Companies have gained long distance relief from the FCC. As impressive as the CLEC market share numbers are now, those numbers can be expected to significantly increase upon BellSouth's entry into the interLATA market.

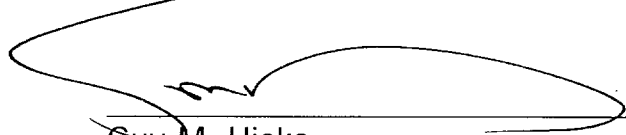
Unlike the initial 271 proceeding BellSouth filed in 1997, the Authority will not be embarking on a journey into uncharted waters in connection with BellSouth's 271 filing this summer. The FCC's orders approving 271 applications in other states have provided guidance that will be useful to the Authority in this process. Moreover, the Authority has already completed or is in the process of completing other proceedings which relate to the fourteen point checklist.

WHEREFORE BellSouth requests that (1) the Authority appoint a Hearing Officer and convene a scheduling conference as expeditiously as possible and (2)

the Hearing Officer and Authority set 271 hearings during the week of November 4, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Guy M. Hicks", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

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Fred J. McCallum
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 30, 2001, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated, postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

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☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

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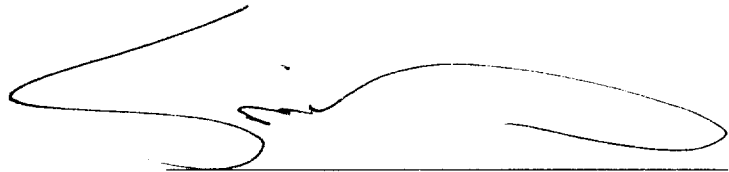
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Andrew O. Isar
ASCENT
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew O. Isar", written over a horizontal line.